IN THE CLAIMS:

1. Cancelled.

2. (Original) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim ~~1~~ 15, wherein at least one of a shaft section of the operation part and a bearing section of the operation knob fitted around the shaft section is a transparent material.

3. Cancelled..

4. (Currently Amended). The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim ~~1~~15, wherein ~~at least one of~~ an internal wall surface of the operation knob ~~and a panel surface at the rear surface of the light guiding piece~~ is a reflection surface.

5. (Currently Amended) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim ~~3~~ 16, wherein ~~at least one of~~ an internal wall surface of the operation knob~~, and a panel surface at a rear surface of the light guiding piece~~ is a reflection surface.

6. (Currently Amended) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim ~~1~~ 15, wherein the light receiving surface of the light guiding piece for receiving the light from the light emission surface faces an interior of the operation knob, and the emission surface for emitting the light diffusively passing through the light guiding piece to the front of the light guiding piece is located around an outer peripheral section of the operation knob.

7. (Previously Presented) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim ~~3~~16, wherein a light receiving surface of the light guiding piece for receiving the light from the light emission surface faces an interior of the operation knob, and an emission surface for emitting the light diffusively passing through the light guiding piece to the front of the light guiding piece is located around an outer peripheral section of the operation knob.

8. (Currently Amended) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 6, wherein ~~a at least part of a rear surface of the light guiding piece is a reflection surface and~~ an outer peripheral section of a front surface of the light guiding piece is a matted emission surface.

9. (Currently Amended) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim 7, wherein ~~a part or the whole of a rear surface of the light guiding piece is a reflection surface and~~ an outer peripheral section of a front surface of the light guiding piece is a matted emission surface.

10. (Currently Amended) The illumination apparatus according to claim ~~3~~16, wherein a concave is ~~formed~~ located in a panel surface to which the operation part is attached, and the light guiding piece is ~~placed~~ located in the concave.

11. (Currently Amended) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to claim ~~1~~15, wherein a through-hole is formed in the operation knob so that transmitted or diffused light is emitted through the through-hole.

12. (Currently Amended) An illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim ~~3~~16 wherein a through-hole is formed in the operation knob so that ~~the~~ transmitted or diffused light is emitted through the through-hole.

13. (Currently Amended) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim ~~1~~15, wherein the operation knob is an operation button.

14. (Currently Amended) The illumination apparatus for an operating section according to Claim ~~3~~16, wherein the operation knob is an operation button.

15. (Previously Presented) ~~The~~ An illumination apparatus for an operating section ~~according to Claim 1~~, comprising:

an operation part located on a panel of electronic equipment,

an operation knob attached to the operation part so that light from a built-in light emission source illuminates a rear surface of the operation knob,

a concave portion opposite an opening in the operation knob of the panel,

a light guiding piece located in the concave portion to diffusively transmit the light from the light emission source to illuminate an outer periphery of the rear surface of the operation

knob, the light guiding piece comprising a light receiving surface that receives the light from the light emission source and an emission surface that irradiates a front of the light guiding piece with the light from the outer periphery of the rear surface of the operation knob, and

a first reflection surface and a second reflection surface that reflect the light outward from the light receiving surface,

wherein the light emission source is located above a bearing section of the operation knob,

an inner peripheral section of the light guiding piece is thicker than an outer peripheral section,

a thicker part of the inner peripheral section is located inside the operation knob,

the outer peripheral section is located around an outer periphery of the operation knob,

an outer periphery of the outer peripheral section protrudes outward from the outer periphery of the operation knob,

a first reflection surface is ~~formed~~ on a rear surface of the outer peripheral section of the light guiding piece to reflect the light from the light receiving surface radially outward of the light guiding piece, and

the second reflection surface is ~~formed~~ on the rear surface of the outer peripheral section of the light guiding piece to reflect the light reflected by the first reflection surface toward the emission surface.

16. (Previously Presented) ~~The~~ An illumination apparatus for an operating section ~~according to Claim 3~~, comprising:

an operation part located on a panel of electronic equipment, and

an operation knob attached to the operation part so that light from a built-in light emission source illuminates a rear surface of the operation knob,

wherein each of a shaft section of the operation part and a bearing section of the operation knob is a transparent material,

the apparatus further comprises a light emission source located inside at least one of the shaft section of the operation part and the bearing section of the operation knob, and a light guiding piece is located between the operation knob and the panel to diffusively transmit light from the light emission source to illuminate the outer periphery of the rear surface of the operation knob,

an inner peripheral section of the light guiding piece is thicker than an outer peripheral section,

a thicker part of the inner peripheral section is located inside the operation knob,

the outer peripheral section is located around an outer periphery of the operation knob,

an outer periphery of the outer peripheral section protrudes outward from the outer periphery of the operation knob,

a first reflection surface is ~~formed~~ on a rear surface of the outer peripheral section of the light guiding piece to reflect light from light receiving surface radially outward of the light guiding piece,

a second reflection surface is ~~formed~~ on the rear surface of the outer peripheral section of the light guiding piece to reflect the light reflected by the first reflection surface toward an emission surface.